

34. (Amended) A method for detecting cancer cells in a histopathological margin specimen external to a primary tumor comprising the steps of:

testing a plurality of microsatellite markers in a histopathological margin specimen external to a primary tumor to determine a microsatellite marker length alteration relative to a control sample, wherein a length alteration indicates the presence of cancer cells in the specimen.

38. (New) The method of claim ²24 wherein the specimen is blood.

¹²39. (New) The method of claim ²24 wherein the specimen is bile.

¹³40. (New) The method of claim ²24 wherein the specimen is stool.

¹⁴41. (New) The method of claim ²24 wherein the specimen is cervical smears.

42. (New) The method of claim ²24 wherein the specimen is saliva.

¹⁵43. (New) The method of claim ²24 wherein the specimen is tears.

¹⁶44. (New) The method of claim ²24 wherein the specimen is cerebral spinal fluid.

¹⁷45. (New) The method of claim ²24 wherein the specimen is lymph nodes.